

### III. Remarks/Conclusion

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Prior to this amendment, claims 1-27, 30 and 31 were currently pending in the present application. Claims 22 and 27 are currently amended, and claims 23 and 31 are currently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims are currently added. Consequently, claims 1-22, 24-27 and 30 remain pending in the present application.

The amendments proposed herein reflect those suggested by the Examiner during the telephone interview with Applicant's attorney, initiated by the Examiner on February 4, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-21 were allowable and that claim 22 (and, thus, its dependent claims) would be allowable if combined with claim 31. Consequently, after incorporating the Examiner's suggested amendment, all currently pending claims are now believed to be allowable.

It is believed that this paper addresses all matters raised by the Examiner during the telephone interview of February 4, 2005. Consequently, an early indication of the allowability of the claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem that an additional interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney would expedite consideration, the Examiner is respectfully invited to again call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's professional manner and gracious assistance with this matter and the expedited prosecution of the present application is acknowledged with sincere appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,



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